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NEW JERSEY SENATE

ANTHONY R. BUCCO MAJORITY LEADER
SENATOR. 25th DISTRICT COMMITTEES:
MORRIS COUNTY BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
75 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE, 3RD FLOOR LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
DENVER, NEW JERSEY 07834 September 19, 2003
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Chief, Regulations and
Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
PO Box 50221
Washington, DC 20091

ATTENTION: Notice 4
Dear Sir or Madam:

As the State Senator, representing Legislative District 25 in Morris County, I am writing to express my support for the U.S. Treasury's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages (2001R-136P).

I believe the TTB 's action is an important clarification of federal alcohol beverage categories established to maintain an orderly US marketplace. Further, I believe the debate surrounding the proposed standard poses important issues for the stability of the retail licensing system and the overall marketplace.

If adopted, the standard will maintain an orderly marketplace, meet consumer expectations for consistent products, and help sustain the long-term development of the product category. In addition, these reformulated products will be consistent with state tax, license, and distribution laws allowing wholesales and retailers to continue to distribute, sell and market flavored malt beverages as they do today.

Absent a national standard rooted in existing law and regulation, manufacturers, retailers, and wholesales will face a potential for a patchwork of individual state laws and regulations where the same product may ultimately be sold as a "beer" in one state and as a "distilled spirits" in another.

Thank you for this opportunity for me to offer my support for the current TTB proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages.

Sincerely,

Anthony R. Bucco
Senator, District 25

ARB/bk
Ttb.doc
cc: Congressman R. Frelinghuysen
David Smith